

**E. PALESTINE VILLAGE COUNCIL 05/08/2017 7:00 PM 85 NORTH MARKET ST.**

Mayor Zuch called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Cohen, Mr. Elzer, Mr. Todd, Mr. Tyger, Mr. Walker and Mr. Yokley. Also present was Village Manager Pete Monteleone, Finance Director Traci Thompson, Street Superintendant Steve Baird, Law Director David Powers and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the April 24 regular meeting and Special meeting of April 27 were approved on a motion by Mr. Walker seconded by Mr. Cohen. The April Department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Walker. All in favor.

**AGENDA: SANDY WALES- DOG DAYS.** Mrs. Wales thanked Council for waiving the fee for the Community center this year stating that the money could be used to help out with all of the projects. She said weather permitting they plan on staining all of Rainbow Dreamland. **SGT. DON JOHNSON-EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION.** Sgt. Johnson stated the department learned council was giving raises based on merit to three administrative employees and were shocked, he said the issue is nothing personal towards council and they are not asking that the raises be taken away saying the issue isn't about money, its more about principle, trust and credibility. During negotiations they were told finances were tight and could only be offered a 2% increase, he said he spoke with the people involved in the decision process and he does understand that finances have since improved. He stated employees have taken pay freezes in the past to help the Village. The PD operettas 24/7 & 365 days per year with around 20 employees and they rely heavily on part time employees to fill shifts and those part timers are making subpar wages and those wages make it difficult to retain and recruit employees. He said employees donate hundreds of hours to the Village, come in during their time off and volunteer free time during emergency situations and times of high call volume all while working with very limited supplies and outdated equipment. Officers have to work shifts alone. Sgt. Johnson asked that they sit down with Council and try to find ways to solves theses issues and help keep the town safe. In the future when considering raises he asked that Council ask themselves what is merit. **JON RETTIG-FIRE DEPARMENT NEEDS AND BUDGET CONCERNS.** Mr. Rettig stated he was elected by the Fire Fighters Association to speak tonight and support the PD. He stated their negotiations are done for them and they were told that the senior employees would have to take a pay freeze in order to bump up the younger employees, that the offer was all that could be afforded by the Village. He stated they feel the employees being offered the are deserving of them however it isn't fair to be told some must take pay freezes so others could receive an increase and then have council turn around and offer additional raises to another department. He stated they know money is tight and try to be frugal, the cost of training and equipment only increases, standards are higher, equipment has a lifespan of only 10 years and vehicles are required to go to reserve status after 15 years. In comparing figures from the budget, the general fund is \$2000.00 less in 2017 than it was in 2007. In the future he asked that Council be aware of budgetary needs in the department. **CPL BRAIN MOORE-STAFFING,SALARIES,SAFETY & SALARY CHANGES.** Cpl Moore stated there wasn't anything he could add to what Sgt. Johnson and Mr. Rettig had to say. Mr. Elzer thanked the Police & Fire Departments for all they do. Mr. Cohen stated he feels we have the best Police and Fire Department in the area and agreed with the gentlemen that they need sit down and discuss the needs of the departments.

**CLERK:** Martin reminded Council the Public Hearing for Ord, 11-2017 in reference to Livestock will be held prior to the next regular meeting on May 22 at 6:30 and at the regular meeting the ordinance would be given its third reading with vote.

**MAYOR: NO REPORT**

**MANAGER: NO REPORT**

**LAW DIRECTOR: NO REPORT.** Mr. Elzer stated when he got on Council he was told that Council should only interact with the four people who work directly for them and not for the general

employees, that if they wanted something from the employees they should go through the Manager. Atty. Powers stated that's the way it should be and Mr. Cohen stated it is in the Charter. He said individually council members have no authority to direct employees, if they have a concern they need to bring it to the Manager for him to address. Mr. Todd asked if that precluded them from talking to employees to get input and Atty. Powers said it does not.

**STREET:** Mr. Walker made a motion to amend the agenda to add Ordinances 16 & 17-2017 (contract with Best Equipment and Financing agreement with TCF Financing for Street Sweeper.). The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen. All in favor.

**SAFETY/PARK/REC/CEM:** Mr. Cohen reminded everyone that DOG Days is this coming Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**DEVEOPMENT: NO REPORT**

**UTILITY: NO REPORT**

**FINANCE: NO REPORT**

**VISITORS:** Mary Anne Tyger, John & Dot Herbert, Jerry Coblantz, Chief Josh Brown, Sgt. Don Johnson, Terri Ward, John Rettig Jr., Nicole Rettig, Rick & Karen Gorby, Keith McCoy, David Lee, Jon McElroy, John & Amanda Simon, Josalyn & Steven Tigelman, Willard Leake, Russ McCoy, Nicki Hazen, Richard McElroy, Brian Rutledge, Tim Griffith, John Martin, John Calko, Ken Faust, Mike Dugan, Jim Hall, Sandy Wales, Steve Baird, John Davis, Tommy Delo, Katie White and four others whose signatures were illegible.

**VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION:** Mr. Elzer said they had previously discussed a new levy for EMS and wondered where things stood. Manager Monteleone stated they have met about it and Mr. Cohen said they are still in discussion about how they want to handle it.

**LEGISLATION:** Mr. Yokley introduced Ord. 12-2017 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. .Cohen. **An ordinance establishing water service charges for the Village of East Palestine, Ohio. Such charges to be used for the operation, maintenance and replacement of the treatment system and for debt service.** Mr. Yokley introduced Ord. 13-2017 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **An ordinance increasing the base sewer rate.** Mr. Yokley introduced Ord. 14-2017 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **An ordinance authorizing a \$3,000.00 wage increase retroactive to January 1, 2017 between the Village of East Palestine and the Village Manager, Clerk of Council and the Finance Director.** Mr. Yokley introduced Ord. 15-2017 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **An ordinance declaring certain Village property unneeded, obsolete, or unfit for Municipal purposes and authorizing the sale of such property.** Mr. Yokley introduced ORd. 16-2017 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **An ordinance authorizing the Municipal Manager to enter into a finance agreement with TCF Equipment Finance a division of TCF National Bank and authorizing him to execute on behalf of the village all financing documents as required by TCF Equipment Finance a division of TCF National Bank to secure financing in the principle amount of \$167,546.00 with interest at the rate of 3.48 % per annum for a five year term or 3.56% per annum (for a seven year term) for the purchase of a new TYMCO 435 sweeper on an international chassis.** Mr. Yokley introduced Ord. 17-2017 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager to enter into a contract with Best Equipment Co. inc. for the purchase of a TYMCO 435 sweeper on an international chassis.** Mr. Yokley introduced Res. 6-2017 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **A resolution authoring the Columbiana County Auditor to certify to the Municipality of East Palestine the total current tax valuation of the municipality and the dollar amount of the revenue which would be generated by a renewal of the current one mill park levy in the musicality.** Mr. Yokley called for a

vote on Res. 6-2017. Mr. Cohen-y, Mr. Elzer-y, Mr. Todd-y, Mr. Tyger-y, Mr. Walker-y, Mr. Yokley-y. 6 yes to pass. Mr. Yokley introduced Res. 7-2017 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **A resolution authorizing the Columbiana County Auditor to certify to the Municipality of East Palestine the total current tax valuation of the Municipality and the dollar amount of the revenue which would be generated by a renewal of the current two mill park levy in the Municipality.**

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Cohen made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Walker. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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MISTI J. MARTIN

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MAYOR MARGO ZUCH